

**Illinois P-20 Council  
Implementation Review Committee Meeting  
February 11, 2015, 3:30pm**

Westmont – 500 Oakdale Lane  
Fairview Heights – 4 Executive Drive  
Springfield – 700 S College Street

Call in line: 888 494 4032 Access Code 4218176480#

**Attendees:**

Fairview Heights: Amy Alsop, Leslie Harder, Brenda Klostermann, Jim Rosborg  
Springfield: Roger Eddy, Jason Leahy, Eileen Tepatti,  
Westmont: John Cusick, Molly Daily, Brian Devine, Amber Kirchhoff, Jim O'Connor, Jane  
Russell, Ayesha Tillman  
Phone: Dani Craft, Don Cullen, Karen Helland, Lizanne DeStefano, Roxanne Filson, Jon Furr,  
Jen Johnson, Joanne Kantner, Dea Meyer, Neha Patel Cheryl Rodgers

**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Co-chair Jane Russell welcomed all participants to the meeting. She expressed her thanks to IFT staff in all locations for helping with the setup of the meeting. She expressed her excitement regarding the results of the Implementation Review Committee Survey.

**II. Review and Approval of Minutes**

Joanne Kantner moved that the minutes from the September 11, 2014 meeting be approved. Brian Devine seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the minutes were approved with no changes.

**III. Overview and Discussion of Survey and Findings**

Co-chair Russell provided a reminder and explanation of the status of the IRC Survey. She explained that the Committee had been meeting for approximately one year, with six meetings. She noted that the survey had resulted with about 2,700 plus participants. She expressed her sincere thanks for all who had helped bring about these excellent results. She entertained thoughts and comments regarding the survey's process. The group expressed interest in the idea of questions on PARCC being covered, considering it has not yet been implemented statewide.

Amber Kirchhoff of the University of Illinois provided an overview of the survey's rollout. She reminded the group of the Committee's charge, which was to review the implementation of key Illinois initiatives, and the diverse membership of 80+ key

stakeholders in the committee. She explained the development of the survey and the narrowing down of key areas of focus to Student Learning Standards, Statewide Student Assessments, Collection/Use of Data, and Educator Performance Reviews. She explained that the target stakeholder groups were teachers, administrators, parents, and community/business members. Ms. Kirchhoff explained the mechanism for inviting people to partake in the survey, which was open for six weeks. She discussed the content of the 60-65 question survey which was generally given with questions/statements on a five-point scale ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree. She explained that, at this point, she was able to provide demographic information on the respondents, an overview of key findings, and significant differences in respondents throughout each stakeholder type. However, she noted that an analysis of responses to open-ended questions and an analysis of differences in responses by sub-groups was underway and results were not yet available to report.

Ayesha Tillman of the University of Illinois then provided an overview of the results of the survey itself. She discussed the demographic information of respondents, including gender (67% male, 33% female respondents), stakeholder type (over 60% teacher/professor), region, and race. She discussed preliminary findings in the report for each issue area. She explained that, for student learning standards, teachers and administrators are familiar, and respondents are generally positive about preparing students for college but are less confident regarding preparation for success in careers. She noted that top challenges for teachers include planning time, professional development, and the difficulty of balancing multiple initiatives. The group discussed whether a response to a particular question was associated with a particular response to another question in the survey. This analysis had not been conducted at the time of the meeting but is an area the Committee would like to explore to better understand the data.

Under the topic of Statewide Student Assessments, Ms. Tillman explained sub-groups' familiarity or lack thereof with PARCC and other student assessments, as well as different groups' familiarity with accommodations and modifications for special needs students and English Language Learners. Committee discussed responses related to modifications and accommodations for special education students and English Language Learners being shaped by whether or not a respondent has a child who uses these services (for parents and community members) or works with these types of students (for practitioners). Committee also discussed the pros and cons of analyzing PARCC and other statewide student assessments before they are fully implemented. As far as Collection and Use of Data, Ms. Tillman reported a general lack of robust knowledge regarding the Longitudinal Data System, as well as different levels of comfort with current data collection practices. She also noted a general belief in the value of data collection. In understanding Educator Performance Evaluations, Ms. Tillman discussed the divergent opinions between teachers and other stakeholder groups regarding the use of student growth as a factor in teacher evaluations.

Ms. Tillman then provided some overall themes she and the survey committee had discovered in process of the survey. These included administrators indicating a higher level of the comfort and optimism with implementation and current practices, followed by teachers, community, and parents. She noted that generally responses tended to be neutral to positive across initiatives. It was also noted that there appears to be room for increased communications around the included initiatives and opportunities for training.

The group then discussed the survey, its results, and their questions about the survey. Discussion points included the use of survey data for initiatives that had not yet been fully implemented. The group discussed the importance of sharing information with the Illinois State Board of Education and policymakers along the way, rather than waiting until all focus group discussions had ended.

#### IV. Discussion of Next Steps

Amber Kirchhoff explained that next steps for the survey included a more in-depth analysis of the results including a review of responses by geographic region, by subgroup, and of open-ended responses. Additionally, per the Committee's recommendation, a limited number of focus groups will be conducted throughout the state to gather more qualitative feedback from groups that were underrepresented in the survey and where additional information is needed to better understand survey responses. These are expected to take place in March and April, and final results and analysis should be ready by July for presentation to policymakers and the full Council. The group decided to implement a conference call regarding the planning of focus groups, which would be scheduled for the near future.

#### V. Other Business

Co-Chair Roger Eddy expressed his gratitude for Ms. Kirchhoff, Ms. Tillman, and all who had worked so hard on the survey thus far. Date and time for focus group planning call to be announced.

#### VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 pm.